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NUR 4110L – D542

Professor Victory-Stewart

Grand Street Settlement

Today in clinical we discussed the history of the Lower East Side. After identifying some of the key historical events and the neighborhoods current demographics, Professor Victory-Stewart led a group discussion on the different characteristics of this location and how each of them impact and are impacted by the health status of the area and its residents. Some of these “characteristics” included property values and the effects on rent prices, local businesses, access to food (specifically fresh fruits and vegetables), certain environmental factors (here our discussion was focused on traffic, air quality, noise, and garbage), and the cultures of present residents and how they have changed over the last 30 years. The combination of all of these individual characteristics has had a profound effect on this area.

After our pre-conference we met with several of the people that were in attendance at Grand Street Settlement and offered them blood pressure readings. We visited them in the main dining area where they were engaged in different leisure activities. Many were playing Dominos, others were sitting in groups talking amongst themselves, and several were sitting alone reading books and newspapers. Almost all of the people we approached accepted the opportunity to have their blood pressures read. However, many of the attendees did not speak English (LES has a predominantly Hispanic and Asian population) so I needed to have fellow classmates translate for me when informing them of their readings and during patient teaching. I found that nearly all of the people whose blood pressures I took were within normal limits and those few that were not were Hispanic and were aware, medically diagnosed and treating their high blood pressure with medications.